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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,063	01/28/2002	M. Clark Dale	P66143US1	3968

7590

01/17/2003

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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

LILLING, HERBERT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1651

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,063

Applicant(s)

DALE ET AL.

Examiner

HERBERT J LILLING

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

SUPPLEMENTAL
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 4-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn in view of the fact that the claims were rejected over a new reference and that Claim 1 had minor corrections. The current action retains the same rejection submitted on December 24 with the exception of a final rejection.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed November 18, 2002.
2. Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application.
3. Claims 4-17 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.
4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

A. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

B. Claims 1-3 stand rejected for the following:

It is apparent that the strain(s) is/(are) required to practice the claimed invention(s) as recited in the claims. As a required element it must be known and readily available to the public or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification. If it is not so obtainable or available, the enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of all strains. See 37 C. F. R. 1.802.

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The specification does not provide a repeatable method for obtaining the strain(s) and it does not appear to be a readily available material. Deposit of the strain(s) would satisfy the enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. If a deposit has been made, Applicant is required to meet the necessary criteria of the deposit rules in accordance with 37 CFR 1.801-37 CFR 1.809.

If a deposit has not been supplied or made under the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty **and that all restrictions** imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be **irrevocably removed** upon the granting of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirements, See 37 CFR 1.808.

If a deposit is not made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the deposit has been made at an acceptable depository and that the following criteria have been met:

a) during the pendency of the application, access to the deposit will be afforded to one determined by the Commissioner to be entitled thereto;

b) all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material **will be irrevocably** removed upon the granting of a patent;

c) the deposit will be maintained for a term of at least thirty (30) years and at least five (5) years after the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample of the deposited material;

d) a viability statement in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.807;

and

e) the deposit will be replaced should it become necessary due to inviability, contamination or loss of capability to function in the manner described in the specification.

In addition, the identifying information set forth in 37 CFR 1.809(d) should be added to the specification, See 37 CFR 1.803-37 CFR 1.809 for additional explanations of these requirements.

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Applicant is required to be in full compliance with U.S. Rules of Deposits with respect to the availability of the strain. Upon receipt of a statement pertaining to the above (b): that all **restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent. This requirement is a difference between the U.S. Rules and the Budapest Treaty. Upon receipt of statement pertaining to the availability, the above rejection will be withdrawn and Claims 2-3 will be allowed.**

C. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The broad generic claim one lacks sufficient description to inform a skilled artisan that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing since the specification lacks a sufficient number of strains that have been described in the specification, thus the description requirement has not been satisfied for Claim 1.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 4560659, Asturias: Ethanol production from fermentation of sugar cane, December 24, 1985
or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Asturias.

The cited reference discloses a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain which appears to be identical to the presently claimed strain, since it contains the same properties as admitted. Absent a showing to the contrary, the referenced microorganism appears to be identical to the presently claimed strain which includes the claimed different properties absent a showing to the patentable alleged differences and is considered to anticipate the claimed microorganism since the strain produces ethanol and has the same properties. Consequently, the claimed strain appears to be anticipated by the reference in view of:

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It is well settled that if a reference reasonably teaches a product that is identical or substantially identical or are produce by identical or substantially identical process, the PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not inherently possess the characteristics of his claimed product. A rationale given for shifting the burden of going forward to applicant is that the PTO does not possess the facilities to manufacture or to obtain and compare prior art products, see In re Brown, 459 F.2d 531, 535,173 USPQ 685, 688 (CCPA 1972); In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255,195 USPQ 430, 433-434 (CCPA 1977).

In the alternative, even if the claimed microorganism is not identical to the referenced microorganism with regard to some unidentified characteristics, the differences between that which is disclosed and that which is claimed are considered to be so slight that the referenced microorganism is likely to inherently possess the same characteristics of the claimed microorganism particularly in view of the similar characteristics which they have been shown to share. Thus, the claimed strain would have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art within the meaning of USC 103.

Accordingly, the claimed invention as a whole was at least prima facie obvious, if not anticipated by the reference, especially in the absence of sufficient, clear, and convincing evidence to the contrary.

6. No claim is allowed.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Examiner Lilling whose telephone number is (703) 308-2034** and **Fax Number** is for applications **Before Final** (703) 872-9306 and **After Final** for applications is 703-872-9307 or SPE Michael Wityshyn whose telephone number is (703) 308-4743. Examiner can be reached Monday-Thursday from about 5:30 A.M. to about 3:00 P.M. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

H.J.Lilling: HJL

(703) 308-2034

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December 12, 2002



Dr. Herbert J. Lilling

Primary Examiner

Group 1600 Art Unit 1651